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THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

According to the dispatches of the agent of the Northern "Associated Press" from the Army of the Potomac, the recent fighting on the south side of the James has been much more serious and the losses on the Federal side, far heavier than were at first reported, the number of prisoners alone, being according to the statement of the agent, "put down at fifteen hundred." It further appears that the Federals "were surprised, many of them being in their shelter-tents at the time, trying to escape the heavy rain which had been falling for several hours previously." About three P. M. they charged in heavy force between the 5th and 9th corps, and succeeded in turning the flank of the former, capturing a large number of prisoners. This part of the line was forced back some distance, when the 9th corps, which had been relieved the night previous by a part of the 2d, came on to the field and opened fire, checking the advance of the Confederates, and taking a few prisoners. A heavy column at the same time charged on the left of the Federal line west of the railroad, held by the 2d division, General Ayres, which they broke; and here also they took five or six hundred prisoners of the regular brigade. This brigade is commanded by Colonel (or General) Hays, who is believed to be a prisoner, as he cannot be found. The whole Federal line was thus forced back, with heavy loss in killed and wounded."

The victorious advance of the Confederates, was, however, it is said, checked, after a fierce engagement, by the ninth corps, which was moved up to Warren's support. The result was, that the Confederates, after inflicting a severe loss in killed and wounded, retired to their entrenchments, carrying with them their prisoners, &c. The Confederates are reported to have lost in prisoners some two hundred and thirty men. On Saturday the fighting was resumed and was continued on Sunday morning, with what result is not given, but it is claimed that Warren still held the Weldon road at the last advices and was engaged in destroying it. The total Federal loss is stated to be over three thousand. The Confederate prisoners taken, it is said, belonging to Hill's and Heath's corps are a fine looking set of men.

The Fortress Monroe dispatch of the "Associated Press," dated on Sunday says:—"Heavy cannonading commenced at eleven o'clock last night on our extreme left, with the 5th corps, which continued until four o'clock this morning, when it ceased. Heavy musketry firing continued, however, until 10 A. M. The fighting is described as of the most spirited nature, and was the result of an attack from the Confederates, for the express pur-

pose of retaking the Weldon railroad. This had not been accomplished at last accounts.—The 5th corps, with reinforcements, still hold it."

In his summary of the Federal movements on the Weldon Railroad, the correspondent of the Washington Chronicle writes on Saturday: "Between four and five o'clock the Confederates came upon Wilcox with fearful force. Volley, succeeded volley, but failed to destroy the impetus which the Confederates had acquired in their run. Hartranft on the right, and Humphrey on the left, had their brigades closely united, and successfully resisted and foiled every effort of the assailants to penetrate their front. This was but the precursor of the coming conflict. A simultaneous attack was made upon the entire front. Every battery in position roared forth its dreadful direful notes.

"Fifty sharpshooters, belonging to the 7th Indiana, were swept from sight in less time than it takes me to write this. The Confederates had forced their way through the skirmish line, and were deploying right and left, to come down upon Crawford's right and Wilcox's left. Here the fight thickened; men grew desperate and drew strength from the frenzy which the battle created. Gen. Bragg's brigade was forced back, and the Confederates rushed upon Lyle, threatening to devour everything. The Veteran Reserves were swept from sight. Col. Harthorn, commanding brigade, was captured; Col. Carle, wounded and captured, and near two hundred men from this brigade are missing.

"Gen. Potter brought the 2d division, 9th corps, upon the right of Wilcox. Gen. White soon took position still further to the right. This was early in the engagement. These troops had just performed a wearisome march yet they entered the fight immediately and held their place upon the right with great stubbornness. The 50th regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers captured a stand of colors, from the 47th Virginia regiment. Embazoned upon its red, white, and red, folds were inscriptions of thirteen engagements, in which the regiment had fought—from Bull Run to Mine Run. About this time Major Belcher, commanding the 8th Michigan, was killed, and Major Hart commanding the 51st Pennsylvania, wounded.

"The Confederates penetrated the front, and poured in upon the flanks of the different commands. Men began to come to the rear, with weapons in their hands. General Hayes, who connected with Crawford at the railroad was roughly handled. He was lately dubbed brigadier in Ayres' division. Hayes was carried off, and a number of his troops. The Federals receded from the clay banks, hastily thrown up in a night. If they were of any protection, they were lost. The battle assumed the appearance of a melee. Every one seemed to fight to kill.

"Darkness was stealing over the field of bat-

tle. Beauregard's men had concentrated with Hill's corps. They designed annihilating, with a powerful force, a single corps de armee which they imagined detached from the main body to tear up the railroad track, but three divisions of the 9th corps were at hand, and the salvation of Warren's command was sure.—Lee has generally been successful when he comes with tremendous power upon an isolated body of troops. This time he failed. We lost near 1,000 men taken prisoners, and about 500 killed and wounded. Over 100 Confederate slain were found in front of one brigade this morning.

"A short time after dark the line was redressed and strengthened. Forward rushed the Federal soldiers, and recaptured the works and the ground lost two hours before."

The Richmond Examiner states that the losses of General Grant on the north side of the James River in the battles of Monday and Tuesday of last week were not less, in killed, wounded and missing, than from seven to eight thousand men. The aggregate Confederate loss in the same engagements, it asserts, did not exceed one thousand. The entire number killed, it says, was less than one hundred.

The Richmond papers announce that Major General Frank Gardner, who was recently exchanged at Charleston, and who had previously distinguished himself by his stubborn defence of Port Hudson, has been appointed to the chief command of the District of the Gulf, with his headquarters at Mobile, and that an order has been issued prohibiting in future any flags of truce, except by permission of the Commanding General of the Department. The opinion in Mobile is that the city will be able to hold out against any attack that may be attempted.

According to the despatches to the Northern papers from Louisville, the communication with Sherman is cut on both sides. It is reported that a train from Knoxville to Chattanooga was captured near Cleveland, and an empty train from Chattanooga to Atlanta on Thursday. The Nashville Times contains a report that Gen. Wheeler's forces had crossed the river above Chattanooga.

The Philadelphia Inquirer complains of the extravagant stories, constantly published of "successes, disasters, and losses," &c.—and of "war news" generally. Hardly anything is to be believed, at first, that appears in the "popular newspapers." Called "popular" because they are bought by the credulous and "newsy."

The U. S. Secretary of the Treasury has anticipated the interest on 10.40 bonds, due 1st September next, and on the 5.20 bonds, due 1st September next, and on the 5.20 bonds, due 1st November next, by directing that the same be paid on and after this date.